

JULY 2019

# The Micron



The staff newsletter of AJ Engineering and NEWCo

## CNC JOB NOT A DROP IN THE OCEAN



**The CNC shop has secured its biggest financial order with a company that has a long-standing relationship with AJ Engineering.**

The works which are for two separate projects worth a total of £100K have been awarded by a large ROV contractor.

AJ Engineering has been working with the Aberdeen-based firm for a number of years supplying ROV tooling components and fabricated items too.

This job which will take two months to complete is for the supply and delivery of multiple components in titanium, aluminium bronze and stainless steel.

Willie Mackintosh, CNC Shop manager said: "These two projects have been secured because of our long-standing relationship with this company. We work regularly with them, almost on a weekly basis but this is by far the biggest machine shop order we have had so far.

"The job will take place over a two-month period and all the machines will be utilised to complete the project. It will involve multiple milling and turning operations to very strict tolerances. We are supplying 16 components all weighing 65 kilos each.

"We are also using some of our supply chain to support us in delivering the project and once the parts are returned, the machine shop where we will perform and factory acceptance test in accordance with client procedure."

The first part of the lockout tool assembly

## Company's commercial team banks miles for charity coffers

The Commercial Banking Team of the Royal Bank of Scotland in Inverness, headed by regional director Mark Gall (on the bike) have been supporting AJE with its efforts to raise money for three charities by clocking up over 20,000 miles on a static bike.

As part of the celebrations to mark the company's 20th year in business, AJE is raising money for Marie Curie In Moray, the Moray branch of Diabetes Scotland and Fort-William based charity Star for Harris.

MD Alan James said: "We are very grateful to the team at the RBS for their support and for helping us raise awareness of our challenge this year. It is much appreciated."

If you want to help us raise funds you can make a donation at <https://www.sponsorme.co.uk/ajengineering>



The Commercial Banking Team

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# AJE beams up extension works on former project

**A former project fabricating beams involving over 1km of welding has returned to the workshop to be extended for a different job.**

Recently we reported how AJE had completed works on two 9Te plate girder beams along with seven traverse beams which were then shipped to the Netherlands. The works were so big, the completed beams had to be craned out of the workshop.

The beams were initially 15.2m long and had to be manufactured from profiled plates and welded together using a splicing technique. The splices are staggered along the beams so there are no major weaknesses in any areas.

The beams were initially used as part of a skidding system where they sat beneath a 200Te structure used for different types of Well operations.

However, the client who has worked with AJE on several previous projects has identified another use for the beams which means some modifications needed to be made.

Lee Binks explained: "The beams were shipped back from the Netherlands to Aberdeen and the client saw another use for them so came to AJE to make those alterations. We have had to extend the beams by 1.3m meaning once again we needed to utilise the crane to ensure we got them out of the workshop safely. It's quite common in the oil and gas industry for contractors to identify new ways to use equipment and we are only too happy to oblige and support them with any alterations and modifications that may be required."

Top: The beams from the original project in February  
Bottom: The newly extended beams



## Small works lead to big gains

**Around £230K of work has been secured with a new drilling contractor who specialise in the operation of HWO Systems.**

AJE is fabricating and machining a range of components that will make up a system that will be used for well abandonment. This is a large project which will take over two months to complete with the full workshop team and CNC working to ensure it is delivered on time. It is the biggest project AJE has secured within the energy sector and will take 2600-man hours and 10 weeks to complete.

Lee Binks, business development representative who is working jointly on this project with fabrication manager Craig Johnston said: "This work has been secured following successful completion of short lead time projects for this client and they have now chosen to use us for a much larger scale project."

## WE'RE HIRING

**AJE is recruiting. The company is growing and to meet demand it is looking to fill the following the positions:**

- Fabricator/Welders
- Trainee Fabricator/Welders
- On-site Mechanical Fitters
- Administration Apprenticeship (Modern Apprenticeship)

For full details of the positions available, please visit the website [www.ajengineering.co.uk](http://www.ajengineering.co.uk).

If you know of anyone who might fit the bill with these positions – please spread the word!

## STEEL LIFE

### In the beginning...

**As part of the company's 20th year in business celebrations MD Alan James is sharing some tales from over the years to give people an insight into his background and how the firm has developed.**

"I started my engineering life by joining local company William Reid on January 4 1971. I was 17 years-old and at the time the firm was a farming machinery sales company. Most of the work was related to farm machinery sales and repairs. They had a tractor workshop, implement (baler) shop, millwrights shop, electricians small workshop and a large parts store.

#### Farm buildings

At the time of me joining WR, they had just started making farm buildings and the first was for a Mr John Ferguson at Monaughty Farm at Alves (a relative of Grant). WR had to supply a portal framed cattle court building and a truss type silage pit building which required lots of plates all pre-drilled and bolted to angle irons to form steel trusses.

I spent the first six months of my apprenticeship drilling holes for farm buildings. Soon I

graduated onto a special squad of four under the watchful eye of Dod Simmers (Simmers of Keith) to fabricate farm and other steel buildings. At that time all the welding units were "stick" and there was only one MIG welding unit in the whole of WR.

In August 1971, I went with the other WR apprentices to the Elgin Technical College (formerly Elgin Academy) one day a week where, although we were fabricating and welding at work for four days a week, it was a machining craft course that we were undertaking at college. I really enjoyed the lathe and milling work.

#### Three years in

In my third year at WR I was asked to go part time into the WR drawing office to help draw up farm buildings - steel and cladding. My boss at that time was Jim Hunter, (dad of Myles Hunter) who was manager of the WR Buildings Dept. During these first three years I learned to be accurate, work at a good pace (Dod Simmers saw to that) and never say no, even to drilling holes for six months!"



Young Alan James

*to be continued...*